



# TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memo To: Board of Selectmen  
From: Blythe C. Robinson, Town Manager  
Date: October 11, 2013  
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

### Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 71,431.23
- Expense Warrant: \$109,397.14

### For Your Information/Follow Up:

- Congratulations to the organizers of Heritage Day last weekend! Their hard work was rewarded with a window of sunshine on Saturday enabling the day to go off without a hitch. It was nice to see the Common busy with activity, and people enjoying the accompanying VFW road race, church yard sale, Library book sale, and Fire/EMS Department open house.
- Enclosed in your agenda packet please find an offer for railroad property for sale by the Grafton & Upton railroad. We have been notified that the railroad is intending to sell the parcel on Grove Street that they cleared last year while they were in the process of upgrading their tracks. They no longer have use for the property, and are offering it for \$102,500. Proposals are due by November 4<sup>th</sup> by parties who are interested in this.
- Also enclosed with your packet are several items related to the proposed casino in Milford. First, is a letter from Town Counsel to Foxwoods requesting a meeting to discuss Upton's status as a surrounding community. The second is a joint letter from both of the regional planning agencies to Foxwoods expressing their concern about the lack of information provided by the casino about the impacts. The planning agencies believe it is important that they receive this if they are going to be able to provide proper analysis to Upton and the other towns with which to negotiate these agreements.
- If you enjoy perusing the auctions that we post periodically to dispose of surplus property you are in luck. We have posted the sale of an old police cruiser, the Fire Chief's vehicle as well as the DPW Director's. The auction closes on October 15<sup>th</sup>. You can find the items on public surplus's website at: <http://www.publicsurplus.com/sms/upton,ma/list/current?orgid=174131>.
- The commitment for the next quarterly billing for water and sewer has been calculated and bills have gone out to our customers. This far for the year we are anticipating collection of 51.82% of the budgets approved for the water and sewer enterprise funds. As the summer billings are typically higher than winter, we will be monitoring expenditures closely to ensure we remain on target throughout the year.
- This weekend the new equipment for the Veteran's Memorial Playground will be delivered. We will have staff on hand, along with volunteers from the Men's Club to

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
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install that equipment. It is hoped that we'll be ready to reopen the playground late next week.

- The Library Board of Trustees has voted to retain Vertex manage the renovations to the Library and the repairs to address the odors in the building. We have included a warrant article for additional funds, and will be working to refine that number prior to the November special town meeting. The Library is targeting the move out and the work to be done during the month of December.
- A major project being undertaken this fall is an update of the Town's Insurance Services Organization (ISO) rating. As you may know, this rating directly affects the amount of insurance charged to residents for homeowners insurance. The project requires that the Fire Department gather a large amount of data to demonstrate that the Town is in compliance with various laws and national standards. Our goal is to maintain our current rating of 4/9. Given that municipal water service is not available throughout town, it is unlikely that our rating would be improved.
- There are several position openings that you should be aware of. Two heavy equipment operator positions in the Highway Division, and an internal posting for the Council on Aging Director. Applications for the Highway position are due by October 17<sup>th</sup> and for the COA Director by October 31<sup>st</sup>. We are also exploring options to fill the vacant Animal Control Officer with the Board of Health.
- A draft of what we anticipate is the final version of the earth removal permit has been completed is posted on our website for public review ahead of the next Selectmen's meeting on October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Please note that Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> is Columbus Day and the Town Offices will be closed for business, reopening on Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup>.